

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-12 SR-02 ORM-03 AGR-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

RSR-01 ADP-00 /161 W

----- 059158

R 150831 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1096

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2972

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, UNRWA, XF

SUBJ: FFP/ PL-480 TITLE II PROGRAM SUBMISSION - UNRWA TA PROGRAM

REF: STATE 44644

1. UNRWA' S FY 74 PROGRAM PROPOSAL (SUBMITTED IN OUR A-50 OF MAR 2) IS THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE IN GENERAL SCOPE OF COMMODITY PORTION OF US REGULAR CONTRIBUTION EXCEPT FOR ALTERATION IN PROPORTION OF FLOUR AND OIL RECEIVED BY AGENCY. AGENCY' S SUGGESTED FY 74 SHIPPING SCHEDULES FOR EACH COMMODITY ARE AS FOLS:

(A) FLOUR (METRIC TONS)

ARRIVAL DATE BEIRUT AQABA ASHDOD TOTAL CUMUL TOT

MID- JUL 73	2,500	6,000	--	8,500	8,500
MID- AUG 73	2,500	6,000	--	8,500	17,000
MID- SEP 73	2,500	6,000	6,000	14,500	31,500
MID- OCT 73	2,500	6,000	6,000	14,500	46,000
MID- NOV 73	2,500	6,000	6,000	14,500	60,500
MID- DEC 73	2,500	6,000	6,000	14,500	74,750
MID- JAN 74	--	6,000	--	6,000	80,750
MID- FEB 74	--	5,000	--	5,000	85,750
MID- MAR 74	--	5,000	4,000	9,000	94,750
MID- APR 74	--	5,000	--	5,000	99,750

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MID- MAY 74	--	5,000	--	5,000	104,750
MID- JUN 74	--	--	--	--	104,750
TOTALS:	14,750	62,000	28,000	104,750	

(B) OIL (METRIC TONS)

ARRIVAL DATE	BEIRUT	AQABA	ASHDOD	TOTAL	CUML TOT
MID- SEP 73	--	500	--	500	500
MID- DEC 73	350	600	500	1,500	2,000
TOTALS:	350	1,100	500	2,000	

2. UNRWA COMPTROLLER, IN LETTER TO EMBOFF, OBSERVES WOULD " FLOUR PRICES AT THIS TIME ARE AS HIGH AS THEY WILL EVER BE, AS RESULT OF CERTAIN CROP FAILURES OUTSIDE US LAST YEAR AND CONSEQUENT INCREASED DEMAND FOR CEREALS. RECENT DEVALUATION OF US DOL HAS ALSO CLEARLY MANIFESTED ITSELF IN PRICES OF EUROPEAN FLOUR. WHILE EXCHANGE RATES WILL PERHAPS NOT COME DOWN AGAIN, THERE IS GOOD REASON BELIEVE REDUCED DEMAND FOR CERALS WITH NEW CROP YEAR WILL LEAD TO REDUCED CERAL PRICES THIS FALL. AGENCY TRUSTS THAT IF IT IS CONSIDERED QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO HOLD TO PRICES AND QUANTITY PATTERNS OF US FY 73 CONTRIBUTION, USG WILL GIVE DUE WEIGHT TO FOREGOING FACTORS IN FIXING PRICES AND QUANTITY PATTERNS FOR FY 74. EVEN BETTER, OF COURSE, WOULD BE RECOGNITION BY USG OF AGENCY' S FIXED NEEDS FOR CERTAIN QUANTITIES OF FLOUR AND COOKING OIL, AND AGREEMENT BY USG TO PROVIDE SUCH QUANTITIES IN WAY EEC HAS UNDERTAKEN TO DO."

3. COMMENT: UNRWA COMPTROLLER, IN ABOVE LETTER AND THAT OF MAR 1 (ATTACHED OUR A-50), HAS OBVIOUSLY USED EVERY REASONABLE ARGUMENT HE CAN THINK OF TO JUSTIFY FIXING OF LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES FOR US FY 74 FLOUR AND OIL DONATIONS. AGENCY NOW AWAITS USG DECISION, TRUSTING THAT ITS PROGRAM PROPOSAL WILL RECEIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. COMPTROLLER' S SUGGESTION THAT US EMULATE EEC IN AGREEING SUPPLY UNRWA FIXED QUANTITIES OF FLOUR AND OIL FROM YEAR TO YEAR, REGARDLESS CURRENT WORLD PRICES, IS INTERESTING IN THAT IT SHOWS UNRWA WILLING RISK POSSIBLE LOSS OF HIGHER QUANTITIES IN YEARS WHEN PRICES ARE LOW. WE ASSUME HIS SUGGESTION NOT PARTICULARLY APPEALING TO DEPT AND AID/ W, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION.

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BUFFUM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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TAGS: EAID, XF, UNRWA
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